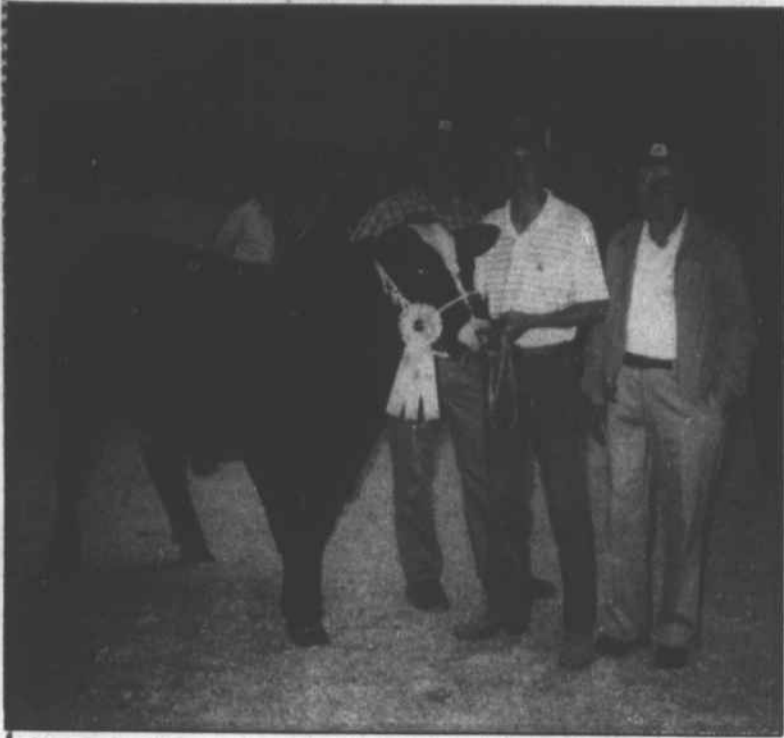


Feature

Perquimans' animals steal the show



Pictured above are Billy and Jeff Williams with Elbury Lane.



Above Brian Rayburn is pictured with a trophy which he won at the Livestock Show Awards Banquet.

In Perquimans County the folks are extremely proud of their children, and since most are farmers they are extremely proud of their livestock.

This year they have very good reason to be proud of both.

In the recent livestock show youngsters from Perquimans County won six of the coveted awards presented, but more importantly the youngsters won the awards with animals that were born and raised on local farms.

In past years many of the parents whose children have participated in the show have been forced to purchase animals from outside the county, and often outside the state for their children to exhibit.

This year of the six animals which received top honors five of them were born and raised on farms in Perquimans County.

Tiffany Nixon's steer won the award for grand champion this year, and her father Ed Nixon birthed and raised the steer. About three years ago Jeff Copeland, the livestock agent for the area, and Nicky, Ed's son talked Ed into beginning a cross-breeding program which resulted in the quality steer which Tiffany showed. The calf's mother was a half breed. Three-quarters Semmental, and one-quarter Angus. In the beginning Nixon barrowed a bull from Willow Creek Farms, but now breeds his own.

Ed fed the steer a mixture of corn, soybean, and pear hay, and Tiffany worked with the animal approximately 12 weeks before the show getting ready.

Jeff Williams also did well in the show. His steer "Spook" received the award for reserve champion. Jeff bought "Spook" from Elsberry Lane on November 19, 1986. At that time the steer weighed 810 pounds, and by the show "Spook" weighed 1270 pounds. Jeff says he fed the steer with his own feed formula at first but later changed the feed to a commercial mix. In February, the steer weighed about 1000 pounds. Spook was the youngest steer in the show, and Jeff says that he wasn't the easiest animal to work with.

This was Linda Layden's third livestock show, and she purchased this year's grand champion pig from Mackbourne Farm, from Mr. Willard Copeland on March 9 of this year. When Linda bought the pig it weighed 171 pounds, and by the show date it weighed 240 pounds. With the help of her brothers Elton and Douglas, and her dad Linda went about raising the pig. The pig was fed on a self-feeder with McNess Hog Feed.

Lynn Trueblood's pig won reserve champion, and it wasn't the first time that one of Rountree Stallings' (Lynn's grandfather) pigs has won an award in the livestock show. Lynn's pig weighed about 100 pounds when Lynn started working with it, and he worked with the pig once or twice a week until the time of the show. Mr. Stallings mixes his own feed which is made up of 38 percent supplement and corn ground together to make a 16 percent feed. Stallings says luck plays a major role in how well the animals do in the livestock show.

Walker Rayburn is well known throughout the county for having good lambs and this year was no exception. Brian Rayburn showed one of his dad's lambs, and it won reserve champion. Brian spent three months working with the lamb; and he worked with the animal everyday for the whole time. The lamb was fed with a feed that varied in content, but contained about 18 percent protein. The feed started out with a higher protein ratio which was lowered as show time got closer.

Mr. Rayburn says that the secret to having good animals is all in their blood lines.

According to Jeff Copeland it takes a combination of many factors to make a good show animal, but he's very proud of all the animals which Perquimans County showed in the livestock show this year, and hopes that the county's animals will continue to do well.



Pictured above are all the top winners from Perquimans County. They are front left to right: Brian Rayburn, Linda Layden, and Lynn Trueblood, and rear left to right: Leah Harrell, Jeff Williams, and Tiffany Nixon.



Above Lynn Trueblood and Linda Layden are pictured. They received top honors for their hogs.



Pictured above are Leah Harrell, Jeff Williams, and Tiffany Nixon who received top honors for their steers.



Above Becky Rayburn is presented with an award at the Livestock Show Awards Banquet.



Above Lynn Trueblood is shown receiving his awards from Tommy Harrell of Perquimans County.

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